

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

Alleluia

He | is

Risen

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

Sisters, Brothers, and Friends of O.L.P.H.,

This Sunday is a wonderful day to spend celebrating Christ's love for us. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! This is our Easter joy.

Joy is contagious. So, let's share our Easter joy with others. That's the first thing Mary Magdalene did when she saw the empty tomb. She ran back and told Peter and the other disciple that Jesus wasn't in the tomb. She *ran* to share the good news that Jesus had risen!

Can we even imagine what thoughts must have flooded Saint Peter's mind as he stood looking at the empty burial cloths inside Christ's tomb? He didn't have all the facts. But his love for Jesus reached perfection the moment he stepped into the tomb.

Saint Peter had initially denied Jesus out of fear. But that was in the past. Easter morning was a new beginning for him. It's a new beginning for us, too.

Jesus rose from the dead into eternal life, and He has assured us that we shall, as well. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, reminds us of this in today's second reading: *"When Christ your Life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory."*

So, then, we were created for eternal life. And Jesus, who loves us, journeys with us not only throughout our lives here and now, but also to that new and everlasting life into eternity.

This is the good news of Easter. This is our Easter joy!

Father Conrad

APRIL 12 2020

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Lectionary: 42

Reading 1

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
"You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that not to all the people, but to us, he be visible, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Responsorial Psalm

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
or:

R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
or:

R. Alleluia.

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
or:

R. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
or:

R. Alleluia.

A MINI-HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Reading 2

Brothers and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.
For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

+ + +

“THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; let us rejoice and be glad!” (Psalm 118) May the Spirit of the Risen Christ live within you and those you love, and may every grace of this Easter Season always be yours.

On Easter Sunday morning, as I celebrate holy Mass, know that you will be with me in spirit as you and your intentions will be specially remembered. —Father Conrad

Although we are unable to celebrate Easter Sunday in church this year, we are still able to proclaim our Easter joy with our lives. As we pray for the many who are suffering from the corona virus, no pandemic can destroy Easter.

The Paschal Mystery, *i.e.*, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, is about the Lamb who was sacrificed and whose sacrifice brought us life.

Because, before Jesus’ sacrifice, mankind had lost the capacity to have a spiritual life; the decision to push God aside destroyed it. Choosing sin was a choice for death and allowed the devil to have free reign on the earth.

But the Eternal Word of God came as the new Adam, the one who would choose life. Jesus rose from the dead and became the source of spiritual life to all who would believe in Him. So, we are dead no more, because we are alive in the Lord as we live our baptismal commitment.

We share in the fullness of the New Life that Jesus won for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection. And *nothing* can take our Risen Savior from us!

This is the Gift of Easter Sunday!

May the life of our Risen Lord flow through our veins, so that every thought, word, and deed of our lives shouts out, “Jesus lives!”

And may our Risen Savior who loves you bless you and be very close to you today and all the days of your life.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis